

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF GHANA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, the United States of America is home to hundreds and thousands of people of Ghanaian heritage—including those who were born on this soil to those whose family emigrated here for education, job, or economic opportunities—for the American dream.

Ghanaian Americans are an important fabric in the tapestry of America from the cab driver to the medical doctor. You will find them in all parts of the country from Milwaukee to New York to suburban Ohio and Massachusetts. The culture is hard to ignore with rich food, the iconic Akan Kente cloth, storytelling, inventions, architecture and music.

Today more than ever Ghanaians living in the United States worry about racial injustice, home ownership, access to education, access to small business and immigration support.

Like many Americans, the Ghanaian community in America is not exempt from the COVID-19 crisis. Ghanaian Americans are essential workers and are very active in the health care industry, especially as nurses, personal care aides, and nursing assistants. Ghanaians are included in the 27.5 percent of all Black immigrant workers in the U.S.—more than 750,000—who work in the healthcare sector. Additionally, essential workers include frontline workers in other key industries like food and service & hospitality and leisure.

And Ghanaian Americans have been contributing to the success and business continuity of important industries during these dire times. Ghanaian Americans are included in 23 percent of immigrants in the U.S. who work in the food and service industry, as well as 20 percent of immigrants in the U.S. who work in hospitality and leisure.

On this day, I recognize the 65th anniversary of Ghana's independence and my intention to launch the Congressional Ghana Caucus that will create an inclusive platform in this body for discussing critical policy issues affecting Ghanaians in the Diaspora, as well as bolster the relationship between the U.S. and Ghana.

RECOGNIZING SILVERDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to commemorate Military Appreciation Day in Kitsap County organized by the Silverdale Chamber of Commerce on March 5, 2022.

Here in Kitsap County, we have a lot to be thankful for. Kitsap County has a vibrant history as a military community. This rich history began in September 1891, when 190 acres of the Pacific Northwest wilderness was purchased for the first Naval Station Puget Sound

in Bremerton, Washington. Today, this presence has grown to include Naval Base Kitsap—Bangor and Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton and Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Keyport.

Part of what makes this area special is not just the physical presence of our Naval Base, but the tens of thousands of military members and veterans who call it home. Members of the military aren't just fighting for the freedom of our community. They are family members, friends, and neighbors who are making a difference in it, too.

In addition to those serving in uniform, our community is home to thousands of Department of Defense civilian employees who serve our country each day and ensure the readiness and safety of our service members.

Veterans and service members are also a critical part of our local economy, doing everything from creating small businesses to bringing their unique work ethic and skills to employers looking to fill jobs. That's why today is a great way to go beyond saying thanks and turning our words into deeds. And that is why events like today's Military Appreciation Day are so important.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the Silverdale Chamber of Commerce and the Military Affairs Committee for hosting Military Appreciation Day to honor those that do and those that have served our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY BY SANTA ANA'S SUAVECITO FOUNDERS PETE AND TONY ADAME AND JASON VENABLE

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, during the early days of the pandemic, when medical resources and household items were in short supply, Suavecito, Inc., the Santa Ana-based company famous for making hair pomade, decided to start producing much-needed hand sanitizer for frontline workers in our community.

For months, Suavecito donated thousands of bottles of hand sanitizer to first responders, postal workers, grocery store employees, and delivery drivers, filling a critical need for Santa Ana and Orange County.

Like so many people across this country—when their community was in need—Suavecito answered the call. Even when their own production lines shut down, they used their resources to help their community.

Today, Suavecito has rebounded, and its two production warehouses are staffed by more than 100 employees who, last year, produced more than 6 million 4-ounce cans of pomade, as well as other haircare products and merchandise that are sold locally and exported to more than 55 markets around the world.

For their distinguished contribution to U.S. exports during the COVID-19 pandemic, Suavecito earned the President's "E" Award from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Suavecito founders, Pete and Tony Adame and Jason Venable, have been a beacon of

hope, prosperity, and resiliency in Santa Ana for more than a decade. This band of brothers represent the best of Orange County, of California, and of America.

SOPHIA PRAMUK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sophia Pramuk for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Sophia Pramuk is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sophia Pramuk is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sophia Pramuk for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLIFTON N. WEST, JR. OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to recognize Clifton N. West, Jr., an accomplished business owner who served the residents of the District of Columbia.

Clifton N. West, Jr., "Skeeter" was born on December 12, 1933, to Thaddenia West and Clifton N. West, Sr. and was the younger brother of Pat and Beverly. He was raised by his mother and his grandparents in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1952, Skeeter graduated from Dunbar High School in the District of Columbia. During his time at Dunbar, he served in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). He won many awards with the drill team and the track team.

Skeeter enrolled in Howard University in 1952 as a chemistry major. In 1955, he left college and joined the Air Force. He served for three years at the Chateauroux Air Force base in France. After his discharge, in 1958, he used the GI Bill to continue his education at Howard University and worked part-time at the U.S. Postal Service.

He would go on to work at St. Elizabeths Hospital and later at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center as a medical technologist. In 1963, he started a laboratory in his basement and worked on building his business in the evenings while he worked for Berkley Medical Instruments selling blood analyzers during the day.